A NEW RISTORY OF THE CONQUEST OF MEXICO.

By Rosent Andresos Wilson, Counselor at Law,

Author of "Mexico and its Religion" 8vo pp. 539.

Philadelphia: James Chailen & Son. This is the age of Michalet, of Niebuhr, and of Arnold, who have rewritten the story of ancient Rome, destroying our school-boy idesions, and proving that Cicero and Livy did not understand be history of the Roman Commonwealth. What they did for Rome, Mr. Wilson has undertaken to do for Mexico-to write a new history of the Conquest in a spirit of wise and truthful criticism, and to immolate Cortez, Bernal Diaz and Mr. Prescott. upon the altar of historical verity. With somewhat of previous parade, the book has finally made its appearance, and we were prepared to receive it with favor and to recognize every possible merit. An unlucky accident, however, befell He in the outset. Casually opening the volume at Page 363, we were struck with the running title, "Impossibilities in Cortez's Statements;" and, looking into the text, found this announcement: " He [Cortez] reports a dry stone wall, nine feet high and twenty feet thick, inclosed Tlascala from mountain to mountain, a distance of six miles, through which he entered, between overlapping stone walls." Happening to have the dispatches of Cortez (edit. 1828), we consulted them, and fould his language to be really the following:

"Y a la salua del diché valle, balié una gran cerca de piedra acca, tan alt4 como estado y medio, que atra versaba todo el valle de la una sierra à la otra, y lan ancha como veinte pies: y por toda ella un petril de pie y medio de ancho, para pelear desde encima: y no mas de una entrada tan ancha como diez pasos, y en esta entrada doblaba la una cerca sobre la otra à manera de Rebeiin, tan estrecho como guarenta pasos. De manera que la entrada fœse à vueltas, y no à derechas."—(Cortez, p. 63, edst. 1828)

The subjoined is an accurate translation: The subjoined is an accurate translation:
"At the place of exit from the valley," (la salida,
sxitus, egressus, Sala, Dyc. Espagnol), "I found a
wail of cry stene about nine feet high, which traversed
the whole valley from mountain to mountain, twenty
feet thick, and upon its whole extent a breastwork a
foot and a half thick, so that they might fight from
the top of the wall. There was but one entrance, ten
passes wide, and at this entrance one wall encircle the
other for forty paces after the fashion of a ravelin.
So that the entrance was circuitous, and not direct."

So that the words "inclosed Tlascala." and

So that the words, "inclosed Tlascala," and "a distance of six miles." are put by Mr. Wilson into Cortez's mouth, and then denounced by him as "impossibilities." This statement put us at once upon our guard. We have read Mr. Wilson's book, consulted his authorities, and are now ready HUMAN SACRIFICE-CANNIBALISM-IDOLATRY.

Human sacrifice in Mexico, Mr. Wilson de nounces "as the first of a series of invented cru elties cumpingly devised to justify all the epormittee committed by Cortez." p. 302. The category. p. 24. Indian idolatry is also denied by bim. p. 335. But the existence of all these customs among the American Indians, is as well established as the torturing of prisoners by the Iro

Pedro de Boulogne, writing from Mexico after the year 1534, when Cortez was already in irre-Brievable disgrace, thus describes the mode of hu-

man sacrifice:

"The priests had a stone knife, as in the ancient temples they had the knife of circunciaton. They concacted the men [victims] to an elevated place, and stretched them on a broad stone: the priests came with this knife, cleaved the breast, and tore out the heart; with the blood they besmeared the altar of the idol, they cut off the feet and arms of the victims, and seat them to the principal chiefs, who ate them with respect and joy."—(Ternaux's Voyages, Vol. X., p. 215)

This is the general description of human sacrifices. It is confirmed by Pedro de Gaute, natural son of Charles V , after Cortez's disgrace:

"They [the natives] thought that every object had a god. They sacrided to some of them, buman hearts, human blood, qualls, sparrows, inconse, paper, shrube, and many other material objects, according to the different rules followed in the sacrifices, and according to the class of the gods."—(Paris Edition, p. 195.)

This prepares us for various forms of idolatry, with human sacrifice standing at the head. Ac cordingly, we find buman sacrifices described by " a gentleman in the suite of Cortez," in almost the above terms, as practiced at Mexico: (Ramusio's Voyages, Vol. 3, page 254): also, by Francisco de Boulogne, atter 1534, (Paris edit., pp. 214, 215); by Cortez, of the Spaniards taken prisoners by the Mexicans and sacrificed during " In noche triste," "the doleful night;" (Cortez, p. 410, edit. 1828, Folsom's Cortez, p. 298; by Bernel Diaz, Lockhart's translation, Vol. I., pp. 120, 126, 141, 239.) Bernal Diaz thus describes the immolation of the Spanish prisoners during the "deleful night:" (Lockhart's trans., Vol. II., p. 89.

"We could plainly see "how the Mexicans compelled their victims to dance round the idol; we saw how they stretched them out at full length on a large atone, ripped opened their breasts with flint knives, tore out the palpitating heart, and offered it to their icols; "new they then seized them by the legs, and threw them headlong down the steps of the temple, the legs, arms and other parts of the body being cut up and devoured."

Mr. Wilson admits this incident, even to the tearing out of the heart, and says: "To this is foolishly added, it was done in sacrifice to their idots, though the very existence of Indian idols is still problematical!" p. 499.

The chaplain of Grijslva's expedition to Yucatan, made in 1518, whose account was first published at Venice in 1522-and not in 1848, as Mr. Wilson states, p. 291, in his account of their visit to the tower of Cozumel-states that they found there Sgures, idols which they adored, bones, &c ; and that they supposed an old Indian, who was burning incense there, was adoring his idole. (Chaplain's Journal, Paris edit. 1838, p. 6.) "Had he known the language," says Mr. Wilson, "he would probably have understood what it really was-a compli mentary welcome to the pale-faces. On so shallow a foundation rests the allegation of Indian idelatry " But at pages 27-29 of the very volume Mr. Wilson had before him, is a description of another temple visited during that expedition, where four victims were found immolated in the same manner as was practiced at Mexico, and an Indian with whom they could conwerse, described the sacrifice in the same terms as those above cited, adding that the calves of their legs, their arms and thighs, had been cut off to eat. Further on, he describes the body of a child which they found, and which had been immolated in the same manner. Mr. Wilson, with this book open before him, suppresses both these accounts! He also suppresses the following statements:

When Cortez came to Cozumel, the priests defied him, and announced that they should persist in worshiping their gods (Bernal Diaz, vol. L. p. 61. He there recovered a Spaniard, named Aguilar, who had been ship wrecked on that coast eight years before, and whose companions had been sac-rificed to their gods. (Bernal Diaz, vol. I., p. 64.) Also Grijslya received an Indian woman of Ja maica, whose husband and companions, shipwrecked with her, had been sacrificed to their gods by the natives. (Bernal Diaz, vol. I. p. 22.) person making the off-ring is nearly a head higher in which the very first step of progress, after

Cordova's expedition to Yucatan in 1517, in the only two places where the natives permitted them to land, found idela. (Bernal Diaz, vol. L, pp. 5-7.) In the former place, idols of various shapes -- some of them committing "horrible offences," to whom shells and trinkets, some in the shape of ducks, fieb, &c., were offered; in the latter place, there appeared to have been bloody sacr fices. These se ven distinct allegations of idolstry, four of them with human sacrifices, Mr. Wilson entirely sup presses. Mr. Stephens, traveling in Yucatan, three bundred years afterward, gives an engraving of the sacrificial "stone invariably found before each idol," and the "form of sculpture most frequently met with," namely, "a death's head, someomes the principal ornament, sometimes only socessory, whole roses of them on the outer wall." Stephens's Central America, vol. I., pp. 154, 158, 159) "The emblems of life and death appear on the wall, in close juxtaposition, confirming the belief in the existence of that worship practiced," &c. (Stephens's Yucatan, vol. I., p. 314.) Eag avings of these "death's heads," and of severed heads, arms, legs, bands and feet, are scattered prefusely through the Antiquités Mexicaines of Dupaix. Even Las Casas does not deny the existence of human sacrifices; he attempts only to reduce the number of the victims. (Cited in Prescott's Conquest, vol. I., p. 69, note) In 1541, the Viceroy, Mendoza, fitted out an expedition, which conquered the Province of Cibols, some six bundred miles porth-west of Mexico. Castsñada de Nagera. the historian of the expedition, thus speaks of three different nations, who inhabited that Province: "The Tabus, " " who adored the devil, and sacrificed to him a part of their riches. They did not eat human flesh, nor make human sacrifices.

" The Pacasas, who are much more barbarous; sometimes they eat human flesh. They adore sculptured and painted stones. * * The Acajas. who all eat human flesh, and bunt men as they bunt deer. He who has the greatest number of human skulls and human bones about his house is the most feared and esteemed." (Castañada, pp. 149-152.) Vasquez Coronado writes to Charles V. in 1539 of the people of Topira: "They adore idols, which

birds." (Ternaur's Voyages, IX., p. 350.) He further describes the sacrifice of victims selected by lot, and of prisoners of war, in Xalisco. by burning upon funeral pyres. At Panuco, on the Gulf of Mexico, the most obscene idols existed, and the Phallus was adored. (Ternzuz, X., 84, 85.)

they keep in their houses. These are plants and

Juan de Zarate, Bishep of Anteguera, writes to Philip II., after 1555: "There are in this bishopric Indians who still sacrifice to idols just as they did before the Christians came here." (Ternaux, X., 292.) Francisco de Boulogne recounts à curious story of some native priests who concealed their idol in a vault over which they planted the cross. pretending to adore it, but really adoring tueir dol." (Ternaux, X., 215, 216.) He adds: "Toese people [the Indians] bring us their idels, and weep overt heir sins," &c., &c. (Ib , 219.) Mr. Stephene cites a legal document bearing date in 1673, which recounts that at Uxmal, even at that late date, the Indians notoriously and publicly "worshiped the devil in the ancient buildings which are there. leaving in them their idole, to which they burn copal, and perform other detestable sacrifices." To which he cites Cogulludo, as a witness immedistely after the fact. (Yucatan, Vol. I., pp. 323-322) He also describes idolatrous alters, which be pronounces to be of a construction long subsequent to the conquest. (th , Vol. II., p. 406.) The priest at Quiché assured Mr. Stephens that the Indians still worshiped their idols in the mountains: and in 1700 the whole province in which Palenque is situated, revolted, murdered the Catholic priests, profuned the churches, and openly practiced idelatry. (Central America, Vol. H., pp. 192-286.)

These cumulative, and yet disconnected, accounts show conclusively that from Yucatan to the confines of Texas, idolatry everywhere obtained; thathuman sacrifices were practiced in Yucatan and Mexico, and for hundreds of miles further toward the north; and that where human escrifices prevailed, cannibalism generally formed a part of them. If this a not so there is no longer a value in human testimony. If Cortez and Bernal Diaz had not mentioned the idelatry and human sacrifices of the natives, their parrations would have been suspected, if not regarded as incredible.

THE PHENICIAN CROSS IN AMERICA. Although we exenot see what the alleged discovery of Promician remains in Central America has to do with the "New Conquest of Mexico," we are yet delighted with Mr. Wilson's Chapter V., for it centains the only citation of his that we have been able to verify. Cicero dees say in his Natura Deorum (Book III., Lib. 23), that Astarte was the Syrian Venue. (Wilson, p. 196.) Setting aside the learned lumber which muddles the chapter, the

argument may be briefly stated as follows: "The cross was the emblem of Astarte, the goddess and Maderna of the Phoenicians. (Wilson, p. 158.) A greats found at Palenque, to which infants are being cross is found at Palenque, to which infants are being sacrificed (p. 159). Or which cross and sacrifice an ergraving is given (p. 160); and the cross repeated in the froutspiece. Also, four pictured Madonnas are found at Palenque (p. 158). Also, the sacrifice of chidren to Saturn (p. 157). The ruins in Central America are of great antiquity, and of indisputable oriental origin (p. 174); having existed for thousands of years (pp. 173-268). Greek antique-Theban, Etrascan-Phomician columns exist there equal to the best antique or Promician art (pp. 163-266). Crosses are portrayed on the walls (p. 45). At Mitla, we have the Maltese cross (pp. 159-198).

To which the brief reply is: The cross was not the emblem of Astarte. She sometimes carried a long stick with a cross upon its top, but she was variously represented. (Calmet: Astarte.) In Gell's Pompeii (plate 77) we have Jupiter bearing a cross. Was this therefore his emblem? Perhaps he was a minister of the Gospel! A star was probably the emblem of Astarte. (Robinson's Calmet : Astarte.) Human victims were not sacrificed to her, but her offerings were bread, liquors and perfumes. (Calmet : Astarte.) Nor is there any representation at Palenque of "infants sacrificed to the cross," but Mr. Wilson's engravings to that effect are only

mutilations of a fabricated picture. In Stephens's Central America (vol. II., p. 345) an engraving of this famous scene. What is there represented in a cruciform shape, has projections at the end of each arm something in the shape of a horizontal letter -, which are supported by posts, partly concealed by ornaments. Probably no one would have detected a cross in this bas-relief except the priests of the country, "who are always quick in discovering ome real or imaginary resemblance to the cross. 16. 377) But this cross, such as it is, Stephens says, "is surmounted by a strange bird," and one of the persons "seems in the act of making an offering, perhaps of a child. " In Dupaix, it is given, not however as it exists, but as made up by the artist at Paris, in order to present a perfect picture." (16. 346-7.) In Stephens's picture, the

than the cross, and is evidently raising the offering to the "strange bird." Dupa'x's picture, which Stephens thus dep unces as " made up " is pubhebed in the Antiquites Mexicaines, (3d Expedition, plate 36, and copied in Lord Kingsborough, vol. IV. 3d part of Dupair's Pictures, No. 41.) There the artist gives the crue form portion a high relief not possessed by the original; the posts supporting the projecting arms are suppressed; the person bearing the offering is depressed about half a head, so as to bring him further below the bird, as if he might be presenting the offering to its pedestal, and not to it. But Dupaix does not say the person "offers to it [the cross] a child of singular shape;" but, "offers upon his upraised arms a new-born child of a fantastic form." (Dupaix, text 3d Ex., p. 25.) Dupaix, while he retains the bird in his drawing, adroitly suggests, but does not assert, that the offering is made to the cross, and not to the bird. Mr. Wilson, who is informed of the fraud perpetrated by Dupaix-for he acknowledges in his preliminary note. at page 11, that he has consulted Stephens in relation to this very picture-still adopts the fabricated drawing of Dupaix as the basis of a new fraud: denudes it of its "great complication." mentioned by Dupaix; cuts off its peculiar projecting extension; removes its outside ornaments heightens its relief, by destroying its background of the same color; banishes the "strange bird surmounting it," and then publishes it as a representation of infants sacrificed to the cross! This imposition is earried one step further in the frontispiece. "The sacrifices to Moloch or Saturn are distinctly to be recognized on the wails of Palengue. An old priest, in the act of offering a child, is opposite a younger official, who is also making an offering."-(Wilson, p. 157.) It has hitherto been a debated point whether Moloch was Saturn or not; (Calmet: Moloch); but Mr. Wilson settles the matter with a dash. We turn to that picture, also, at the frontispiece in Stephens's Central America, vol. II. Are those offerings children? Dupaix did well to omit this picture, which completely demolishes his "child of fantastic form' offered to the cross. What, then, are they? Mr. Stephens, in the engraving, in Central America, voi. II., p. 353, and Dupaix, in the Antiquités Mexicaines, (3d Expedition, plate 38,) afford us the solution. Those plates represent one of the persons belonging to the pictures above referred to. Among his ornaments, hanging down behind, and in Stephens's picture, attached to his girdle by a chain, is a grotesque, pigmylike human figure. Is this a "child o fantastic form!" or is it only an image, such as in the other pictures, are offered to inferior deities; in the one case to the scrange bird, and in the other, probably, to the mask of some demigod? For, as we have seen, "every object had a god," and Bernal Disz found on the coast "images of ducks and fishes" which had been offered to their gods. Tais is doubtless the true solutionfor not one of the supposed children has that resemblance to human progeny which is necessary to justify the theory of infant sacrifice on the occasions portrayed. So this cross, and Saturn, and their infant sacrifices, and all the frauds foisted upon the public, vanish into thin air. And the 'Madonnas" with them-for pictures of women with children are, happily, too common to sustain any such conjectures. Mr. Stephens, in one of the last pages of his last work, denies emphatically that the cross was ever recognized as a symbol of worship by the natives of Yucatan .- (Yucatan, Vol. II., p. 378.)

THE RUINS OF CENTRAL AMERICA NOT ANCIENT. With equal certainty, is it settled that the roins f Central America are neither ancient nor oriental. Ferguson decides most authoritatively that they are unconnected with any known style: (Hand-Book of Architecture, Vol. I., p. 147,) and only one remove from the original wooden construction of early times: (ib. 151); and that it is impossible to ascribe any great antiquity to buildings containing so much wood in their construction. (16. 153) Mr. Stephens frequently mentions the wooden lintels, and denies the antiquity of the buildings, ascribing them to the races existing there at the time of the Conquest. (Yucatan, Vol. 1., 94, 324, 403; 11., 375. 259, 430, 444, 442, 445.) His facts seem to fully

austain his conclusions. But the recent date of some of these buildingsand those the most magnificent-is clearly demonstrable. The only arch attained by the builders of these edifices, was the horizontal arch, formed by stones, whose successive courses projected beyond the vertical line, until the two sides met above in the centre, or came near enough together to be covered with a flat stone. In Stephens's Yucatan, (vol. II., p. 317,) and in Ferguson, (vol. I., p. 152,) we have an instance of this. But this arch, forming a vaulted room in this instance, is sustained upon beams of wood, which extend from pillar to pular. Evidently, then, this vault has been built so recently that there beams have not had time to decay; and, at the time of their construction, the native architects had not learned to dispense with lintels of wood: that is, had not learned to arch the space between the columns, as well as the vault of the roof. But in Stephens's Central America, (vol. II., p. 351,) we find an instance where the architect had advanced this requisite step, dispensing with the wooden beams between the pillars, by arching the space, thus forming, by its intersection with the vaulting of the roof, a groin precisely analogous to the groined radiating arch. But, as in art there are no steps backward, the wooden lintel thus superseded, could never be resumed, and we at once conclude that this last structure is more recent than the other. But this very edifice last described is the one in which the famous picture of the cross was found, and has therefore been built within the period in which wood exposed to a damp climate will decay! And this is the oriental origin, the antiquity of these ruins, and of the Phomician cross at Palenque! So as to Mr. Wilson's "Doric columns equal to the best specimens of antique or Phonician art," and of which his engraving, (p. 206,) is a mutilated fragment, cut out of the middle of the engraving in Suphens's Yucatan, (Vol. II. p. 21,) deprived of the original accessories which render Dorie impossible, and with its square capitals rounded to suit the theory! Stephens does not think them Doric, and says the lintels were of stone; they are therefore recent. So "the Maltese cross at Mitla," Wilson, p. 159, and engraved p. 198,) is another sabrication; the original in Dupaix, (Antiquités Mericaines, 1st Exped. pl. 29) being only four small triangular holes, cut in what seems to be a war-club, which Mr. Wilson engraves as an embessed cross, in high relief! The other " crosses

portrayed on the walls," (Wilson, p. 45.) may b

consulted in the Antiq. Mexicaines, (1st Exped. pl.

28 2d Exp , pl. 3, 4, 8, 14) They are all evidently the

result of ordinary efforts at ornamental decoration.

drawing a straight line, is to draw another across it. Is every specimen of this kind a religious cross? The thigh boxes crossed in pl. 14, above referred to, bardly make an exception, although they probably illustrate the religious cannibalism of the natires.

THE BUILDINGS OF THE MEXICANS.

We have not space to take up the argument

attributed to Gen. Cass, and advanced by Mr.

Wilson, on the subject of the buildings of the Mexicans. Those who are carious to investigate the subject may profitably consult, beside Mr. Prescott's citations, the letters, reports and parrations of Alvarado, Godoi, De Gaute, Boulogue, Zarate, Mendoza, Fau', Niza, Coronado, Bienvenida, and Castan-da de Nagera, and, in our own day, Squier and Bartlett, beside a multitude of others of lesser note. It is incontestible that, from Hondures to the River Gila, the waole country abounded with large and magnificent buildings, and that those of Mexico, like those of Yucatan, were for the most part "low, but extensive, and highly decorated." These buildings exist to this day in Yucatan and Chispes, and their ruins abound everywhere throughout Mexico and her provinces; and the remains of the Casas Grandes, in Chibushus, and on the Gila, even now astonish us by their grandeur and extent. "Way then." it is seked, " was Cortez, not finding a house fit for his habitation in Mexico, compelled to construct one !" (Wilson, p. 29.) "Why," we ask, in reply, "did the conquerors of Yucatan, instead of occupying the megnificent structures there, pull them down to build new buildinge?" It was simply because they wished for houses suited to the domestic babits of a Caristian civilization. The argument cited by Mr. Wilson is not worthy of the literary reputation by which it is attempted

PICTURE-WRITING OF THE AZTECS.

The "picture-writings" of the Aztecs, Mr. Wilson denounces as "Spanis 1 fabrications," "i npostures," "worthless inventions," and "coarsely fabulous." (pp. 21, 300, 338, 518.) The late Albert Gallatin published an ingenious and plausible argument against these relics, which was respectable intrinsically, as well as from the high character of the author. But long before Mr. Wilson's time it was ascertained that the specimens of "picturewriting," preserved in the libraries of Dresden and Vienna correspond precisely to those now existing on the walls of Copan, Quirigua, and Palenque: (Stephens's Central America, vol. II. pp. 343, 453) On the last cited page, are ergravings of the picture-writing from the manuscripts and from the walls; thus showing not only that picture-writing was a fact, but that the same language prevailed throughout the great extent of Central America and

CORTEZ AND BERNAL DIAZ.

We have not space to follow Mr. Wilson in hi criticisms of the narrations of Cortez and Bernal Diez. Very probably, Cortez did honestly exeggerate the numbers opposed to him on various oc casions: it was natural that he should do this, and almost impossible to avoid it. Casar has been accused of doing so, willfully. Napoleon did so, coastantly, on the princip'e that "falsehood was a power;" but Jena, Wagram and Austerlitz are facts, nevertbeless. It is too late to assail Bernal Disz. His narrative bears intrinsic evidence of being, what it purports to be, an honest story, written by one of Cortez's companions in arms, fifty years after the events recorded had occurred. What if he does constantly bunder upon dates, distances and numbers? Would an impostor have done this? Are not these very discrepancies and variations tests by which the integrity of bistory is vindicated?

We will not follow Mr. Wilson to " the Lake of Mexico." where his facts refute his argument. We have not examined his personal statements; after the ill fortune we have had with his citations and engravings, that task would be beyond our ca

But we are compelled to say that having gone over much of the ground to which the researches of Mr. Prescott pointed the way, we have found his statements in every instance borne out by his tations: we have never found him suppressing. never mutilating a material fact; and never in those authors who are not cited by him, have we found an important fact which is not included in the completeness of his generalizations. Such was the conscientious integrity of a historian who considered the suppression of truth the same as a willful falsehood; such his exhaustive research, which permitted no important fact to escape him; such his modesty which refused to encumber his pages with a merely cumulative erudition.

MY THIRTY YEARS OUT OF THE SENATE BY Major Jack Downing. 12mo., pp. 458. Oaksmith & Co. The true history of the Mejor Jack Downing correspondence, which has been so widely celebrated for its dry humor and novel applications of the Yankee vernecular, is given in the preface to this volume The first letter of the series appeared in January, 1830, in The Portland Daily Courier, a newspaper which had just been started by the author, Mr. Sebs Smith. It was a time of not a little excitement in Maine politice, owing to the peculiar position of the Legislature; and so much to the purpose was the first effusion o the verdant Down-Easter, that the whole town, not excepting the politicians, was convulsed with laughter, as d the success of the experiment was decided at once. The letters attracted attention throughout the coun ty, and, as Major Jack found himself a man of consequerce, he repaired to Washington, and became the confidential friend and adviser of Gen. Jackson. His letters were continued for seven years in The Portland Courier, and, after being suspended for some time, eere resumed in The National Intelligencer, and con tinued till the close of President Pierce's administra tion. They are now reproduced in a nest volume with original illustrations, and to many of the presen generation will possess the attraction of novelty. Al though their local interest has in a great measure sub sided, they will still command readers by their rustic humor and excellent daguerreotypes of Yankee pecu

THE LAND AND THE BOOK. By W. M. THOMSON, D. D. 1 vols 12mo. Harper & Brothers.

The Holy Land, in the opinion of the author of this work, is an integral part of the divine revelation. Its testimony is essential to the chain of evidences that combine to illustrate the truth of Christianity. Pales tine and the Scriptures must be taken together they constitute with each other the entire all perfect text, and they should be read in the light of mutual interpretation. Few men are better qualified than Dr. Thomson to carry out this view; he has been a resident in the sacred localities for twenty-five years; has traversed the country, Bible in band, in all directions; is equally familiar with the written record and the external testi porv: and with a race power for miante observation combines great vivacity and force of expression, looking at the consecrated scenes which he describes with eye of a poet as well as the spirit of a Christian. The volumes derive scarcely less interest from their numerous pictorial illustrations than from the writer's graphic descriptions. Certainly few books of modern pavel give a more vivid impression of the peculiar scenery and customs of the East.

DECELAND, M. D. 12mo. pp. 423. Rudd & Carlton.

It is seldom that a profound science is made the abject of such popular illustrations as comprise the enbetance of this volume, without some sacrifice on he score of verscity of statement or correctness of description. The author of the present work, sowerer, seems to have inherited the talent as well as the love of careful observation from his ilius mions father, and he certainly has few rivals in the gift of communicating his knowledge in a lively and entertaining style. He has brought together a sparking collection of surprises in natural history, add anecdotes about animals, reminiscences of per sonal adventure, melted down into a free and essy sarrative, which has all the charm of the liveliest solloquial recital.

Here is a specimen of the way in which he talks FROGS.

Returning from the University of Glessen: I brought with me about a dozen green tree-frogs, which I had saught in the woods near the town. The Germans call sith me about a dozen green tree-frogs, which I had saught in the woods near the town. The Germans call hem Lanb Freech, or leaf-frog; they are most difficult things to find, on account of their color so much resembling the leaves or which they live. I have fragreently heard one singing in a small bush, and, though I have searohed carefully, have not been able to find tim: the only way is to remain quie quiet till he sgain begins his song. After much ambush work, at ength I collected a dozen frogs and put them in a bottle. I started at night on my homeward journey by the diligence, and I put the bottle containing the trogs into the pocket inside the diligence. My fellow-passengers were sleepy old smoke dried Germans: very little conversation took place, and after the first mile, every one settled himself to sleep, and soon all were storing. I suddenly awoke with a start, and found all the sleepers had been roused at the same moment. On their sleepy faces were depicted fear and snger. What had woke us all up so suddenly I he morning was just breaking, and my frogs, though in the dark pocket of the coach, had found it out; and, with one accord, all twelve of them had begun their morning song. As if at a given signal, they one and all of them began to croak as loud as ever they sould. The noise their united concert made seemed, in the closed compartment of the coach, quite deafening; well might the Germans look angry; they wanted to throw the frogs, bottle and all, out of the window, but I gave the bottle a good shaking, and made the frogs when they began to croak. It was looky that I did so, for they tried to begin their concert again two or three times. These frogs came safely to Oxiord; and the day after their arrival, a stupid housement took off the top of the bottle to see what was inside; one of the frogs croaked at that instant, and so rightened her that she dared not put the cover on again. They all got loose in the garden, where I believe them for I neave heard or saw mide: one of the frogs croased at the instant, and a rightened her that she dared not put the cover on again. They all got loose is the garden, where I be-lieve the ducks ate them, for I never heard or saw them again. These frogs cost six shillings each in Covent Garden Market: they are not difficult to keep alive, as they will eat black beetles, and these are to be procured at all seasons of the year.

These frogs are not often used for the table in dermany, but in France they are considered a uxury, " se any bon virant ordering a dish of them at the 'Trois Frères' at Paris may by the long price speedily ascertain." The author tells us that, Not wishing to try such an expensive experiment in

Not wishing to try such an expensive experiment in gastronomy. I went to the large market in the Faubourg St. Germain, and inquired for frogs. I was referred to a stately-looking dame at a fish-stall, who
produced a box nearly full of them, huddling and crawling about, and occasionally croaking as though aware
of the fate to which they were destined. The price
fixed was two a penny, and having ordered a dish to
be prepared, the Dame de la Halle dived her hand in
among them, and having secured her victims by the
aind legs, she severed them in twain with a sharp
knife: the legs, minus skin, still struggling, were
placed on a dish; and the head with the forelegs affixed,
retained life and motion, and performed such motions
that the operation became painful to look at. These
legs were afterward cooked at the restaurateur's, beling served up, fried in bread-crumbs, as larks are in
England: and most excellent eating they were, tasting ing served up, fried in break atting they were, tasting England: and most excellent eating they were, tasting more like the delicate flesh of the rabbit than any-

more like the delicate flesh of the rabble like the delicate flesh of the common English frog. I afterward tried a dish of the common English frog. but his flesh is not so white nor so tender as that of his French brother.

Should any person wish to have a dish of real French frogs, he can buy at Fortnum and Mason's, for haif a guines, a tin-caseful. They are beautifully preserved, and are ready for cooking. I have eaten them at the and are ready for cooking. I have eaten them at the and are ready for cooking. I have eaten them at the noise of a lady, who kindly invited me to luncheon when she tried the experiment.

The old fishwife of whom I bought the frogs in-

ormed me that she had a man regularly in her employ to catch them. He went out every evening at dask to the ponds in the neighborhood of Paris, with a lantern and a long stick, to the end of which was attached a and a long suce, to the end of which was attached a piece of red cloth. The frogs were attracted by the light to the place where the fisherman stood. He then lightly dropped his cloth on the surface of the water; the frogs, imagining that some dainty morsel was placed before them, eagerly snapped at it, and, their teeth becoming entangled, they became an easy prey, tertined for to-morrow's market, and the tender mer-cies of the fish, or either frog woman.

The ecible frog (ranaesculenta) is brought from the sountry, in quantities of from thirty to forty thousand at a time, to Vienna, and sold to great dealers, who have conservatories for them; these conservatories are conservatories for them: these conservatories are large holes, four or five feet deep, dug in the ground the mouth covered with a board, and in severe weather with straw. In these conservatories, even during a hard frost, the frogs never become quite torpid; they get together in heaps, one upon another, instinctively, and thereby prevent the evaporation of their humid

ty, for no water is ever put to them.

In Vienna, in 1793, there were only three dealers
who supplied the market with frogs ready skinned,
prepared for the cook.

His discourse is no less instructive about RATS.

It is a curious, but nevertheless well-ascertained at is a curious, out nevertheless well-acceptained act, that wherever there is a good habitat for a rat, it is quite certain that there a rat will be. The immediate occupier may be slain, but in a few days the favorite spot will be found out, and taken possession of by another rat, who will in his turn meet the same fate as his predecessor, and will be succeeded by another delinded victim, who is doomed, as the doctors would asy. nded victim, who is doomed, as the doctors would say,

"to be taken as before."

The rat is a most strict observer of the law, "Be fruitful and multiply." In cleaning out the cell containing a little happy family of five rats, of variegated colors—all of which were perfectly tame, and live in peace and harmony—I feit something among the hay, warm and soft; on taking it carefully out, it proved to be a little liny rat, hairless and eyeless, but nevertheless endowed, like a biped baby, with the full and audible use of its infant lungs. On hearing its cries, the mother—a beautiful snow white rat, upon whose head maternal cares were pressing at the early age of eight weeks—rushed forward, and selzing her screaming infant between her teeth, hastily ran off with it. Upon further examination, ten other young innocents were fant between her teeth, hastily ran off with it. Upon further examination, ten other young innocents were found carefully packed up in the corner of a cigar-box, which had been placed in the cage for the use of the colony in general, but which had been kindly vacated by the other considerate rats in favor of the lady who was literally in the straw. The owner is happy to announce that the mother and her little family are all doing well. Such, indeed, is the amazing fecundity of this animal, that they would soon overrun the whole country, and render all our attempts to destroy them fruitless, had they no enemies to lessen their numbers. But this baneful increase is happily counteracted, not only by numerous foes amorg other animals, but by their destroying and sating each other. The same insatiable appetite that

foce among other animals, but by their destroying and eating each other. The same insatiable appetite that impels them to indiscriminate carnage, also incites the strongest to devour the weakest, even of their own kind; and a large male rat is as much dreaded by its own species as the most formidable enemy.

I once had three rats brought to me in a cage; in removing one it got hurt. I fed them, and put them into a stable. The next morning there were only two rats in the cage, the injured rat having been set upon and slain by he fellow-prisoners. They had not only slain him, but had actually begun to eat him, choosing the head to begun upon. Wishing to see the result, I left him, and, in the course of the day, although well supplied with bread and milk, these cannibals had searly devoured their friend. I have preserved the bones as proof of the fact. I afterward ascertained that it was one only of these rats that was murder. that it was one only of these rate that was murder-onaly inclined, for he killed and ate every rat put in to nim. In the course of about a month this brute killed ive rats that were pot into his cage. He always began at the neck, just behind the ear. A gentleman at Clapbam, to whom I gave some rate, had bred a num can at the neck, just behind the ear. A gentieman at Ciapham, to whom I gave some rate, had bred a number in a squirrel a cage, which was hung up in a garten. One morning, not long ago, he looked at the rat in it—a white female withlyoung. Instead of the white rat, he found a great brown male of the common kind coiled up in the nest. The white one

was gone, and the young once all killed and parity devoured. This brown rat must have elimbed up a perpendicular smooth iron bar to get at the cage. Out of the hole in the cage, where the intruder got in, the white mother might have got out if she liked, but she preferred staying at home and looking after her young once.

young ones.

The Yankees, I am told, take advantage of the cantibal propensities in the rats. A clever Yankees, being much troubled with rats, and being determined to get rid of them, tried every possible plan, but without success. At last he got a lot of rats, and shut trem in a cage; they devoured one another till only a single one was left. He then turned this one loose, woo, excited with the blood of his fellow-rats, and thaving become a genuine cannibal, killed and ate at the wild rate he could find on the premises. A goo Yankee etery.

I was witness to the following circumstance: A dog

I was witness to the following circumstance: A dog had been killing some rate for a maken, and one wounded rat was left slive in the rat pit. Twenty other rate were then placed in for another dog. These fresh comers found out the wounded one, and instantly, though these were many people looking on, set upon and hilled him then and there. One of the rate seemed to take the part of the wounded one, but a gigantic rat left the wounded one he was mardering and attacked the would be recover, and killed him also. This seems a wise provision, though, at first sight a consistency of the seems a wise provision, though, at first sight a consistency of the seems a wise provision, though, at first sight a consistency of the seems a wise provision, though, at first sight a consistency of the seems a wise provision, though at first sight a consistency of the seems as wise provision, though at first sight a consistency of the seems as well as the seems as well as the seems as the racked the would be rescuer, and killed him also. This seems a wise provision, though, at first sight a cruel one. If a wounded rat got into a hole, he would inger there perhaps many days in a dying state. His fellow-rats, however, seen find him out and put him out of his misery. At the same time it is a salurary check upon their increase, for a colony of rats has thus in itself the elements of self-destruction. Were all to live, there would not be sufficient food for their existence; some must die, and those are killed who are disabled from foraging for themselves. In this way, too, one poisoned rat often kills more; his neighbors eat his body, and with it the poison. But it appears that the rate have found out what poison is, for a gentieman with whom I was conversing on the subject informed me that he knew a case where poison having been placed down for rate, a pair of old ones dreve their young away from it, and filled up the boies where it was placed, so that they should not got at it.

RATS IN A PIG STY.

During Summer the rat resides chiefly in holes on the banks of rivers, pends and ditches; but on the approach of Winter they visit the farm-bouses, and enter the corn-ricks and barns, where they devour much of the corn, and damage more than they consume. They are very fond of pig-sties, running about among the pigs, pickurg up the leavings of the catmeal out of the troughs, and even nestling down near to the warm body of the fat unwieldy porkers, whose o rese sides make not bad pillows for his impulence, the rat.

On one occasion, when a boy, I recoiled secretly

On one occasion, when a boy, I recollect secretly borrowing an old-fashioned flint gun from the bird-keeper of the farm to which I had been invited. I eakeeper of the farm to which I had been invited. I ensconced myself behind the door of the pig-sty, determined to make a victim of one of the many rats that were accustomed to disport themselves among the straw that formed the bed of the farmer's pet baconpigs. In a few minutes out came an old patriarchallooking rat, who, having taken a careful survey, quietly began to feed. After a long aim, bang went the gun—I fell backward, knocked down by the recoil of the rusty old piece of artillery. I did not remain prone long, for I was soon roused by the most unsarthly squeaks, and a dreadful noise as of an infuriated animal madly rushing round and round the sty. Ye gods! what had I done! I had not surely, like the tailor in the old song of the "Carrion Crow," "Shot and missed my mark,

"Shot and missed my mark, And shot the old sow right bang through the heart."

And shot the old sow right being through the heart."

But I had nearly performed a similar sportsman like feat. There was poor piggy, the blood flowing in streamlets from several small pucctures in that part of his body destined, at no very distant period, to become ham, in vain attempting, by dismal cries and by energetic waggings of his curly tail, to appease the pain of the charge of small shot which had so unceremoniously awaked nim from his porcine dreams of oatmeal and bouled potatoes. But where was the rat? he had disappeared, unburt; the buttocks of the unfortunate pig, the rightful owner of the premises, had received the charge of shot intended to destroy the daring introder.

the charge of shot intended to destroy the daring in-truder.

To appease piggy's wrath, I gave him a bucket full of food from the hog-tub: and, while he was thus con-soling his inward self, wiped off the blood from the wounded parts, and said nothing about it to anybody: no doubt, before this time, some frugal housewife has been puzzled and astonisted at the unwonted appear-ance of a charge of small shot in the center of the breakfast ham, which she produced from Squire Mor-land of Sheepstead, Berks.

THE RAT AND RHINOCEROS.

THE RAT AND RHINOCEROS.

The frequenters of the Zoological Gardens in Regent's Park may, if the room be quite quiet, and the sun warm, observe numerous rats in the den of the rhinoceros. I have frequently watched them playing about, and running backward and forward over his thick, armor-like hide, as he lies basking in the pleasant sunshine. He evidently thinks them quite beneath his notice, for he makes no efforts to drive them away, beyond occasionally flapping his great ear when they tickle him in any tender part. They come to the rhinoceroe's house for the same purpose that they go to the pig-sty, viz, to get what they can from the leavings of their superiors. The keeper informs me that he not unfrequently finds dead rats crushed they go to the pig-sty, viz, to get what they can from the leavings of their superiors. The keeper informs me that he not unfrequently finds dead rate crushed quite flat in the straw under the place where the rhi-noceros has been sleeping. The poor rat has but a small chance of escape when the huge carcass of the great beast comes plump down upon him and settles itself there for a good long sleep. Rats, too, are also found killed in the same manner in the straw bed of the elephant. These rate probably come out of the cies of the fish, or rather frog woman.

I subsequently brought over several dozen of the serious alive to England; some of them are still, I be iver, living in the Ward's botanical cases of those to whom I presented them; the rest were turned out in a pond, where I fear they have been devoured by the courseand English druck; its rightful occupants.

The edible frog (rangesculenta) is brought from the course of the same manner in the straw bed of the elephant. These rate probably come out of the straw thatch which covers the building where the rim noterior and elephant live; they are common also in the deer house, where they come for the oats, of which they are particularly fond. If any person where they come for the oats, of which they are particularly fond. If any person where they come for the oats, of which they are particularly fond. If any person where they come for the oats, of which they are particularly fond. If any person where they come for the oats, of which they are particularly fond. If any person where they come for the oats, of which they are particularly fond. If any person where they come for the oats, of which they are particularly fond. If any person where they come for the oats, of which they are particularly fond. If any person where they come for the oats, of which they are particularly fond. If any person where they come for the oats, of which they are particularly fond. If any person where they come for the oats, of which they are particularly fond. If any person where they come for the oats, of which they are particularly fond. If any person where they come for the oats, of which they are particularly fond. If any person where they come for the oats, of which they are particularly fond. If any person where they come for the oats, of which they are particularly fond. If any person where they come for the oats, of which they are particularly fond. If any person where they come for the oats, of which they are particularly fond. If any person where they come for the oats, of the oats, of t wishes to keep rats alive a long time in a cage, let him give them plenty of cats and plenty of water, for the absence of water will kill them in a very few hours. A fine full grown rat was brought to me: it appeared in perfect health and vigor, and when I went near it, it ran about the cage uitering its peculiar cry of alarm, and fixing itself in an attitude of defense up in one corner of the cage. I introduced a spoonful of water to it, and in a moment it seemed to forget its ferocity, for it came up hesitatingly at first, and tasted the water; gaining courage, it soon took hold of the apoon with its forepaws to steady it, and greedily drank up all the water. I gave it two or three spoonfuls more, and then some wet bread; the next day it had again some wet bread; the next day it had again some wet bread, but not any water. On looking at it the next morning I found my poor rat in the agonies of death. I took it out of its cage and poured some brandy down its throat, at the same time putting its hind feet in hot water, but in vain, it died in my hand. I could find no internal cause for its death; but on consulting a rat-catcher, he informed me that it died for want of water, without a doubt.

RATS LOVE COMPORT.

RATS LOVE COMFORT.

Rats are very fond of warmth, and will remain coiled up for hours in any anug retreat where they can find this very necessary element of their existence. The following anecdote well illustrates this point:—My late father, when Fellow of Corpus College, Oxford, many years ago, on arriving at his rooms late one night, found that a rat was running about among the books and geological specimens, behind the sofa, under the fender, and poking his nose into every hiding-place he could fine. Being studiously inclined, and withing to set to work at his books, he pursued him, armed with the poker in one hand, and a large dictionary, big enough to crush any rat, in the other, but in vain; Mr. Rat was not to be caught, particular y when such "Arma Scholastica" were used.

No sooner had the studies recommenced, than the

No sooner had the studies recommenced, than the rat resumed his gambols, squeaking and rashing about the room like a mad creature. The battle was renewed and continued at intervals, to the destruction rat resumed his gambois, aqueating and taken about the room like a mad creature. The battle was renewed and continued at intervals, to the destruction of all studies, till quite a late hour at night, when the pursuer, angry and wearied, retired to his adjoining bedroom: though he listened attentively, he heard no more of the enemy and soon fell saleep. In the morning, he was astonished to find something warm lying on his cheat; carefully lifting up the bed clothes he discovered his tormentor of the preceding night quietly and snugly enaconced in a fold in the blackst, and taking advantage of the bodily warmth of his two legged adversary. These two lay looking daggers at each other for some minutes, the one unwilling to leave his warm berth, the other afraid to put his hand out from under the protection of the coverlid, particularly as the stranger's aspect was anything but friendly, his little sharp testh and fierce black eyes seeming to say, "Paws off from me, if you please!"

At length, remembering the maxim that "discretion

At length, remembering the maxim that "discretion is the better part of valor"—the truth of which, I imagine, rate understand as well as most creature—he made a sudden jump off the bed, scuttled away into the next room, and was never seen or heard of afterward.

into the next room, and was never seen or heard or afterward.

In my college rooms at Christchurch, a bachelor rathad taken up his quarters, but where these quarters were I never could find; he used to appear on the floor when all was quiet, and disappear again on the alightest noise. I never could catch him, but he was a terrible nuisance, for he made a great noise, running about during the night. The scout used to put out the breakfast before the chapel hour, and when I returned I frequently found marks of the rat's paws and teeth on the butter-pat. What became of him in the long vacation I could not tell: on my return to the rooms he soon reappeared. At last I found his retreatit was under a heap of papers on a side table, and he had made his nest in an old college cap. He had lized it with pieces gnawed off the carpet, and had made a fine store of provisions in the shape of bits of bread, cake, cheese, and everything edible he could find